



Explore the Arikok National Park!



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:

EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:

EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
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Biden extends time in U.S. for 800,000 Venezuelans, Salvadorans as Trump readies immigration crackdown

By GISELA SALOMON

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP)— About 600,000 Venezuelans and more than 230,000 Salvadorans already living in the United States can legally remain another 18 months, the Department of Homeland Security said Friday, barely a week before President-elect Donald Trump takes office with promises of hardline immigration policies.

Biden's administration has strongly supported Temporary Protected Status, which he has broadly expanded to cover about 1 million people. TPS faces an uncertain future under Trump, who tried to sharply curtail its use during his first term as president. Federal regulations would allow the extensions to be terminated early, although that's never been done before.

Homeland Security also extended TPS for more than 103,000 Ukrainians and 1,900 Sudanese that are already living in the U.S.

For José Palma, a 48-year-old Salvadoran who has lived in the U.S. since 1998, the extension means that at least for now he can still work legally in Houston. He is the only person in his family with temporary status; his four children were born U.S.



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris lead a briefing regarding the federal response to the spread of wildfires in the Los Angeles area, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

citizens and his wife is a permanent resident. If TPS was not extended he could be deported and separated from the rest of the family. "It brings me peace of mind, a breath of fresh air. That's 18 more months of being protected," Palma said. "It offers me stability".

Palma, who works as an organizer at a day laborer organization, sends about \$400 a month to his 73-year-

old mother, who is retired and does not have any income.

The TPS designation gives people legal authority to be in the country but it doesn't provide them a long-term path to citizenship. They are reliant on the government renewing their status when it expires. Conservative critics have said that over time, the renewal of the protection status becomes auto-

matic, regardless of what is happening in the person's home country.

Friday's announcement, which came as Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro took office for a third six-year term in Caracas amid widespread international condemnation, is "based on the severe humanitarian emergency the country continues to face due to political and economic

crises under the Maduro regime," the department said. Homeland Security cited "environmental conditions in El Salvador that prevent individuals from returning," specifically heavy rains and storms in the last two years. Congress created TPS in 1990 to prevent deportations to countries suffering from natural disasters or civil strife, giving people authorization to work in increments of up to 18 months at a time. About 1 million immigrants from 17 countries are protected by TPS, including people from Venezuela, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Sudan, Ukraine and Lebanon. Venezuelans are one of the largest beneficiaries and their extension runs from April 2025 to October 2, 2026.

Salvadorans won TPS in 2001 after earthquakes rocked the Central American country. TPS for Salvadorans was to expire in March and was extended until Sept. 9, 2026. Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, suggested they would scale back the use of TPS and policies granting temporary status as they pursue mass deportations. During his first administration, Trump ended TPS for El Salvador but was held up in court. □

U.S. finds no link between 'Havana syndrome' and foreign power, but two spy agencies say it's possible

By DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence has found no evidence linking a foreign

power to the mysterious "Havana syndrome" injuries reported by some U.S. diplomats and other government personnel, though

two agencies now say it's possible a foreign adversary may have developed or even deployed a weapon responsible for the injuries. The conclusion, which echoes early investigations, comes from a review conducted by seven different intelligence agencies who examined cases of brain injuries and other symptoms reported by American diplomats and other military and government personnel who have raised questions about the involvement of a foreign adversary.

The new assessment was released by U.S. intelligence on Friday. Five intelligence agencies in the

review concluded that it is very unlikely that a foreign adversary was behind the incidents, according to a U.S. intelligence official who briefed reporters on the findings on condition of anonymity under rules set out by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Two of the agencies, however, reached a different conclusion, finding that there is a possibility that a foreign power may have developed or even used a weapon capable of causing the injuries reported by U.S. diplomats and government officials. Symptoms that include headaches, balance prob-

lems and difficulties with thinking and sleep were first reported in Cuba in 2016 and later by hundreds of American personnel in multiple countries. U.S. embassy personnel working in Havana were the first to raise concerns, which later led the series of health effects to be dubbed "Havana syndrome."

In the new assessment, the two agencies, which officials did not identify, did not find evidence linking any specific incident to a foreign technology, but based their findings on understandings of foreign weapon development and capability. □



The U.S. embassy is pictured in Havana, Cuba, Aug. 14, 2015. Associated Press

Greenland's leader says his people don't want to be Americans as Trump covets territory

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Greenland's prime minister said Friday that the mineral-rich Arctic territory's people don't want to be Americans, but that he understands U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's interest in the island given its strategic location and he's open to greater cooperation with Washington.

The comments from the Greenlandic leader, Múte B. Egede, came after Trump said earlier this week that he wouldn't rule out using force or economic pressure in order to make Greenland which is an autonomous territory belonging to Denmark a part of the United States. Trump said that it was a matter of national security for the U.S.

Egede acknowledged that Greenland is part of the North American continent, and "a place that the Americans see as part of their world." He said he hasn't spoken to Trump, but that he's open to discussions about what "unites us."

"Cooperation is about dialogue. Cooperation means that you will work towards solutions," he said.



Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and her Greenland's counterpart Mute B. Egede, left, meet the media in the Mirror Hall at the Prime Minister's Office, at Christiansborg in Copenhagen, Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

Egede has been calling for independence for Greenland, casting Denmark as a colonial power that hasn't always treated the Indigenous Inuit population well. "Greenland is for the Greenlandic people. We do not want to be Danish, we do not want to be American. We want to be

Greenlandic," he said at a news conference alongside Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in Copenhagen.

Trump's desire for Greenland has sparked anxiety in Denmark as well as across Europe. The United States is a strong ally of 27-nation European Union and the

leading member of the NATO alliance, and many Europeans were shocked by the suggestion that an incoming U.S. leader could even consider using force against an ally.

But Frederiksen said that she sees a positive aspect in the discussion.

"The debate on Greenlan-

dic independence and the latest announcements from the U.S. show us the large interest in Greenland," she said. "Events which set in motion a lot of thoughts and feelings with many in Greenland and Denmark."

"The U.S. is our closest ally, and we will do everything to continue a strong cooperation," she said.

Frederiksen and Egede spoke to journalists after a biannual assembly of Denmark and two territories of its kingdom, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The meeting had been previously scheduled and wasn't called in response to Trump's recent remarks.

Trump's eldest son also made a visit to Greenland on Tuesday, landing in a plane emblazoned with the word TRUMP and handing out Make America Great Again caps to locals.

The Danish public broadcaster, DR, reported Friday that Trump's team encouraged homeless and socially disadvantaged people in Greenland to appear in a video wearing the MAGA hats after being offered a free meal in a nice restaurant. □

Associated Press

Salvage complete of tanker at center of oil spill scare after being hit by Houthi rebels in Red Sea

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An oil tanker that burned for weeks in the Red Sea after being attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels and threatening a massive oil spill has been salvaged, a security firm said Friday.

The MV Sounion tanker had been a disaster-in-waiting in the waterway, with 1 million barrels of crude oil aboard that had been struck and later sabotaged with explosives by the Houthis as part of their campaign over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. Separately on Friday, Israel's military said it again struck what it called Houthi military infrastructure in Yemen, including the Hizaz

power station and the Ho-deidah and Ras Isa ports on the west coast. Houthi-controlled media reported one worker dead and six other people injured at the Ras Isa port, a day after the Iranian-backed Houthis fired drones at Israel in the latest of escalating attacks.

There was no immediate comment on the Sounion tanker from the Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, for over a decade and have been battling a Saudi-led coalition backing the country's exiled government for nearly as long.

It took months for salvagers to tow the Sounion away, extinguish the fires and offload the remaining crude oil.

"Over three challenging

weeks, the fires were extinguished, cargo tanks patched and pressurised with inert gas, and the vessel declared safe," said private security firm Ambrey, which helped lead the response alongside a European naval force and salvagers.

"In early October, she was towed north to Suez for removal of her cargo, which has now been successfully completed."

The U.S. State Department had warned that a spill from the Sounion would have been "four times the size of the Exxon Valdez disaster" in 1989 off Alaska.

The Houthis initially attacked the Greek-flagged Sounion tanker on Aug. 21 with small arms fire, projectiles and a drone boat. A French destroyer operat-

ing as part of the European Union's Operation Aspides rescued its crew of 25 Filipinos and Russians, as well as four private security personnel, after they abandoned the vessel and took them to nearby Djibouti.

The Houthis later released footage showing they planted explosives on board the Sounion and ignited them in a propaganda video, something the rebels have done before in their campaign. □



This undated photo released by the private security firm Ambrey shows the oil tanker Sounion burning in the Red Sea.

Associated Press

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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of

educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of day-time nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool

and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to

protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □

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Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the

hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sun-

set, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!*

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.



Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell... □



(Oranjestad)—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to starts blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha
Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother

was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawecha, who was a epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudawecha. Upon telling Kudawecha that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawecha was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawecha, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudawecha,

satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □



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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Earth breaks yearly heat record and lurches past dangerous warming threshold

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

Earth recorded its hottest year ever in 2024, with such a big jump that the planet temporarily passed a major climate threshold, weather monitoring agencies announced Friday. It's the first time in recorded history that the planet was above a hoped-for limit to warming for an entire year,

according to measurements from four of the six teams. Scientists say if Earth stays above the threshold long-term, it will mean increased deaths, destruction, species loss and sea level rise from the extreme weather that accompanies warming.

And that would come on top of a year of deadly climate catastrophes 27 billion-dollar disasters in the U.S. alone in 2024 and as 2025 begins with devastating wildfires in southern California.

Last year's global average temperature easily passed 2023's record heat and kept going.

It surpassed the long-term warming limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since the late 1800s that was called for by the 2015 Paris climate pact, according to the European Commission's Copernicus Climate Service, the United Kingdom's Meteorology Office, Japan's weather agency and the private Berkeley Earth team.

Only two U.S. government agencies had Earth below that 1.5 mark. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA had last year at 1.46 degrees Celsius (2.63 degrees Fahrenheit) and 1.47 degrees Celsius (2.65 degrees Fahrenheit).

The Copernicus team calculated 1.6 degrees Celsius of warming, Japan 1.57 and the British 1.53. Berkeley Earth founded by a climate change skeptic came in the hottest at 1.62 degrees.

Much of the differences, which are small, stem from which ocean temperature tools are used. The World Meteorological Organization crunched the six estimates into a composite of 1.55 degrees, which NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt called a "reasonable assessment."

"The primary reason for these record temperatures is the accumulation of greenhouse gases in



Mark Paulson, a Public Response and Code Enforcement officer, checks on Deb Billel, 66, before calling an ambulance to take her to a hospital for heat-related symptoms, July 10, 2024, in Henderson, Nev.

Associated Press

the atmosphere" from the burning of coal, oil and gas, said Samantha Burgess, strategic climate lead at Copernicus. "As greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere, temperatures continue to increase, including in the ocean, sea levels continue to rise, and glaciers and ice sheets continue to melt." Last year was the hottest year for the United States, NOAA said. It was not only the hottest in recordkeeping that goes back to 1850, but likely the hottest for the planet in 125,000 years, Burgess said.

"There's nothing to indicate that it won't continue," NOAA monitoring chief Russ Vose said Friday. "When there's more heat in the system that has a cascading effect on other parts of the system. Sea level goes up. Warmer air can hold more moisture which tends to equate to more extreme storms. There's a lot of impacts that go along with a warmer world."

By far the biggest contributor to record warming is the burning of fossil fuels, several scientists said. Schmidt said the El Nino that started the year probably added a tenth of a degree Celsius to this year's figures.

Alarm bells are ringing "Climate-change-related alarm bells have been ringing almost constantly, which may be caus-

ing the public to become numb to the urgency, like police sirens in New York City," Woodwell Climate Research Center scientist Jennifer Francis said. "In the case of the climate, though, the alarms are getting louder, and the emergencies are now way beyond just temperature." Comparing it to a car's dashboard warning light, University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd said, "Hurricane Helene, floods in Spain and the weather whiplash fueling wildfires in California are symptoms of this unfortunate climate gear shift." There were 27 weather disasters in the United States that caused at least \$1 billion in damage, just one fewer than the record set in 2023, according to NOAA. The U.S. cost of those disasters was \$182.7 billion. Hurricane Helene was the costliest and deadliest of the year with at least 219 deaths and \$79.6 billion in damage.

"In the 1980s, Americans experienced one billion-plus weather and climate disaster on average every four months," Texas Tech climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe said in an email about NOAA's inflation-adjusted figures.

"Now, there's one every three weeks and we already have the first of 2025 even though we're only 9 days into the year." □



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Guerrero agrees to \$28.5M and Valdez to \$18M; Tucker tops arbitration 17 requests at \$17.5M



Toronto Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr. reacts as he flies out during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the Toronto Blue Jays avoided a salary arbitration hearing when the first baseman agreed Thursday to a \$28.5 million, one-year contract on the day players and teams exchanged proposed figures. Houston left-hander Framber Valdez also was among 148 players reaching deals, getting an \$18 million, one-year contract.

Chicago Cubs outfielder Kyle Tucker asked for the highest amount among 17 players who swapped figures at

\$17.5 million.

He was offered \$15 million. Washington first baseman Nathaniel Lowe asked for \$11.1 million and was offered \$10.3 million, and San Diego right-hander Michael King requested \$8.8 million and was offered \$7,325,000. Guerrero and Valdez can become free agents after the World Series. Guerrero, a son of Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero, won a \$19.9 million salary last year in a record high for an arbitration decision when a panel picked his figure rather than the Blue Jays' \$18.05 million offer.

Juan Soto set a record for

an arbitration-eligible player when he agreed last year to a \$31 million deal with the New York Yankees, topping Shohei Ohtani's \$30 million 2023 contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

Soto became a free agent in November and signed a record \$765 million, 15-year contract with the New York Mets.

Among those who agreed to deals were San Diego infielder Luis Arraez (\$14 million) and right-hander Dylan Cease (\$13.75 million), Arizona right-hander Zac Gallen (\$13.5 million) and first baseman Josh Naylor (\$10.9 million), Seattle outfielder Randy Arozarena (\$11.3 million) and Detroit left-hander Tarik Skubal (\$10.15 million). Arraez lost his hearing last year and earned \$10.6 million.

Also agreeing were Philadelphia left-hander Ranger Suárez (\$8.8 million), Cincinnati right-hander Brady Singer (\$8.75 million), Baltimore outfielder Cedric Mullins (\$8,725,000), New York Yankees closer Devin Williams (\$8.6 million), St. Louis closer Ryan Helsley (\$8.2 million), Toronto outfielder Daulton Varsho (\$8.2 million) and Milwaukee right-hander Aaron Civale (\$2 million). □

Federal judge denies NASCAR's motions to dismiss antitrust lawsuit involving two race teams



Michael Jordan, center, and Curtis Polk, left, co-owners of 23XI Racing, watch during qualifying beside 23XI Racing President Steve Lauletta, right, for a NASCAR Cup Series Championship auto race, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A federal judge has denied NASCAR's motions to dismiss an antitrust lawsuit filed against the stock car series. U.S. District Judge Kenneth Bell of the Western District of North Carolina also denied

NASCAR's request that two teams 23XI Racing and Front Row Motorsports be ordered to post a bond to cover fees they would not be legally owed if they lose the case. 23XI Racing, a team co-owned by NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan, and Front Row Motorsports, which is

owned by entrepreneur Bob Jenkins, are suing NASCAR to compete with charter recognition throughout the 2025 season. NASCAR and the teams that compete in the top Cup Series operate with a franchise system that was implemented in 2016 in which 36 cars have "charters" that guarantee them a spot in the field at every race and financial incentives. There are four "open" spots earmarked for the field each week. The teams banded together in negotiations on an improved charter system in an often-contentious battle with NASCAR for nearly two years. In September, NASCAR finally had enough and presented the teams with a take-it-or-leave-it offer that had to be signed the same day just 48 hours before the start of the playoffs. □

CROSSWORD

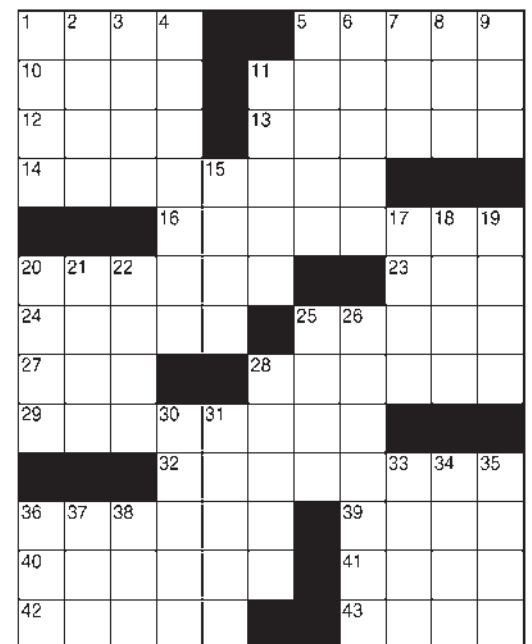
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Concerning
- 5 Took the wheel
- 10 Cabinet part
- 11 Farmer, e.g.
- 12 Nick and Nora's dog
- 13 Big wave
- 14 Car part
- 16 Car part
- 20 Game pieces
- 23 Early hour
- 24 Sailor's cry
- 25 Likely
- 27 D.C. baseballer
- 28 Kitchen come-ons
- 29 Car part
- 32 Car part
- 36 Calm
- 39 Half of a sextet
- 40 Calm
- 41 Pucker-inducing
- 42 They're adored
- 43 Peepers

- 3 Visitor to Oz
- 4 Grove yield
- 5 Slump
- 6 John who married Pocahontas
- 7 Athena's symbol
- 8 Neckline shape
- 9 Go wrong
- 11 Disgusting
- 15 Crazy talk
- 17 Downfall
- 18 "The King and I" role
- 19 Sediment
- 20 Zesty flavor

- 21 Track shape
- 22 Green Hornet's valet
- 25 School event
- 26 "Listen to Your Heart" duo
- 28 Dwelling
- 30 Uttered
- 31 Works copy
- 33 Waiter's aid
- 34 The Emerald Isle
- 35 Goes bad
- 36 Letter before
- 37 Conducted
- 38 Commotion



1-11

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

E Z G X T J G A J C Z C B T J B C V R

C Q Z G G B T B U J M M X C J V L C .

— M B W Z T F X T G V L

Cryptoquote: THE PURPOSE OF PROPAGANDA IS TO MAKE ONE SET OF PEOPLE FORGET THAT OTHER SETS OF PEOPLE ARE HUMAN. — ALDOUS HUXLEY

Lamar Jackson repeats and Ja'Marr Chase and Justin Jefferson are unanimous choices for AP All-Pro

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Lamar Jackson beat out Josh Allen, and Ja'Marr Chase and Justin Jefferson are unanimous choices for The Associated Press 2024 NFL All-Pro Team.

Saquon Barkley received 48 of 50 first-place votes and Patrick Surtain II got 49 from a nationwide panel of media members who regularly cover the league.

"Wow, that's crazy. That's respect right there. That's love," Jefferson said of his unanimous selection and second overall.

Jackson received 30 first-place votes to Allen's 18, making the team for the second straight year and third overall. Peyton Manning (7) and Aaron Rodgers (4) are the only quarterbacks with more All-Pro nominations in the Super Bowl era than Jackson.

Linebacker Roquan Smith, slot cornerback Marlon Humphrey and fullback Patrick Ricard joined Jackson from the Ravens (12-5). The NFC-leading Lions (15-



Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (1) celebrates a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Pittsburgh, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

2) had four players selected: wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown, right tackle Penei Sewell, safety Kerby Joseph and punter Jack Fox.

"They know what's up," said Joseph, who led the NFL with nine interceptions but was snubbed from the Pro Bowl.

Barkley, who ran for 2,005 yards in 16 games in his first season with the Eagles (14-3), and linebacker Zack Baun were Philadelphia's first-team selections. Barkley sat out the final regular-season game with the Eagles locked into the No. 2 seed instead of chasing

Eric Dickerson's 40-year-old single-season rushing record. Browns edge rusher Myles Garrett and 49ers linebacker Fred Warner were each chosen for the fourth time. Buccaneers left tackle Tristan Wirfs became the first player selected at both tackle spots. Before

2016, the All-Pro roster included two tackles but didn't differentiate between right or left side. Wirfs made it at right tackle in 2021. He switched positions in 2023. "It's pretty special," Wirfs said. "It's something I wanted to do, wanted to accomplish."

Fourteen players are first-timers, including Raiders rookie tight end Brock Bowers. He got 27 first-place votes to George Kittle's 22. Chiefs center Creed Humphrey and left guard Joe Thuney and Broncos right guard Quinn Meinerz round out the offense.

Cincinnati's Trey Hendrickson, who led the league with 17 1/2 sacks, joined Garrett at edge rusher.

"That's such a privilege and an honor," Hendrickson said. Kansas City's Chris Jones and Pittsburgh's Cameron Heyward are the interior linemen. Texans cornerback Derek Stingley Jr. and Packers safety Xavier McKinney join Surtain, Humphrey and Joseph in the secondary. □

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Browns QB Deshaun Watson reinjures Achilles, has surgery and will miss 'significant' time in 2025

By **TOM WITHERS**
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson had surgery after rupturing his Achilles tendon for the second time in three months and could miss the entire 2025 season.

The team said Watson, who has played in just 19 games in three seasons with Cleveland due to an NFL suspension and injuries, felt discomfort in his ankle after "rolling" it while in Miami. He only revealed the injury during a player-exit meeting on Sunday.

Tests showed he re-ruptured the tendon, requiring another operation. Watson is expected to miss "significant time" in 2025, the Browns said Friday in a statement. The injury further clouds his future with the Browns, who still owe him \$92 million after signing him to a fully guaranteed \$230 million contract in 2022.

Earlier this week, general manager Andrew Berry said Watson had a setback and the team was gathering more information.

The 29-year-old Watson was originally injured on Oct. 20 in a loss to the Cincinnati Bengals. Watson had surgery five days later, and he had been away from the team rehabbing his injury when he got hurt again. □